

### REMARKS

Applicant would initially like to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended and the time taken in the telephone conversations of May 5, 2003, and May 13, 2003, regarding the above amendments. As was discussed in the May 13, 2003 telephone call, Claim 1 has been amended above to remove several limitations that were inadvertently included in that claim. In the telephone call the Examiner acknowledged that the arguments in the last Office Action response were directed solely to the surface coating of the plaster, and that the surface coating comprised allowable subject matter. Therefore, the Examiner stated that the removal of the inadvertently-included limitation should not affect the patentability of Claim 1.

In the latest Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 7, 8 and 13 under 37 C.F.R. 1.75(c), as being in improper dependent form. Specifically, the Examiner noted that Claims 7 and 8 included limitations that were already included in Claim 1, and objected to Claim 13 as being dependent upon Claim 8. Applicant has amended Claim 1 above to remove the limitations of Claim 7 and 8, which were inadvertently included in that claim. Therefore, Applicant submits that all of Claims 7, 8 and 13 should now be in condition for allowance.

Additionally, the Examiner has objected to Claim 12 under 37 C.F.R. 1.75(c) as being in improper form, and to the specification due to a minor oversight on Page 1 of the specification. Applicant has deleted Claim 12 above, and has amended the specification to remove the reference to the claims.

Finally, the Examiner has rejected Claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, based on some minor informalities with that claim. Applicant has amended Claim 15 above so as to place that claim in condition for allowance.

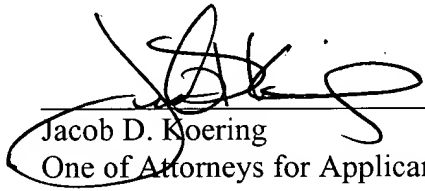
Based on the above, Applicant submits that all of Claims 1-2, 4-11, and 13-18 should now be in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner enter the above amendments into the file for the present application, reconsider the previous rejections and allow the entire application to proceed to allowance.

Should anything further be required, a telephone call to the undersigned, at (312) 226-1818, is respectfully invited.

Respectfully submitted,

FACTOR & PARTNERS, LLC

Dated: May 27, 2003



Jacob D. Koering  
One of Attorneys for Applicant

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on May 27, 2003.

Jacob D. Koering

